IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claim 1.

Cancel claims 2-4, and add new claims 11-13 as follows:

Cancel claim 8, and add new claims 14 and 15 as follows:

1-4. (canceled)

5. (original): A method of evaluating media, the method comprising the steps of:

sensing properties of media including the location of any imperfection in the media;

evaluating any imperfections in one or more predefined critical locations on the media;

generating a first damage value based on the imperfections in the critical locations;

evaluating any imperfections in any non-critical locations on the media;

generating a second damage value based on the imperfections in the non-critical locations; and

combining the first and second damage values to generate a single damage index.

6. (original): An evaluation module for coupling to a sensing arrangement, the evaluation module comprising:

a classifier including first evaluating means for evaluating any imperfections in one or more predefined critical locations on the media and generating a first damage value, second evaluating means for evaluating any imperfections in any non-critical locations on the

media and generating a second damage value, and combining means for combining the first and second damage values to generate a single damage index.

7. (original): An evaluation module according to claim 6, further comprising a number of classifiers, and a second level classifier for receiving the single damage index from each classifier and for generating a suitability index therefrom.

8. (canceled)

9. (original): A method of evaluating media, the method comprising the steps of:

sensing the media;

detecting one or more physical imperfections in the media;

determining properties of each of the imperfections in the media;

generating a damage index associated with each imperfection based on the determined properties; and

generating a single suitability index based on a combination of each damage index.

10. (original): A method of evaluating media, the method comprising the steps of:

sensing the media;

detecting at least one physical imperfection in the media;

determining properties of each imperfection in the media;

generating a damage index associated with each imperfection based upon the determined properties of the imperfection; and

generating a single suitability index based upon a combination of each damage index.

11. (new): An evaluation system for evaluating media, the system comprising:

sensing means for sensing properties of media including the location of any imperfection in the media; and

an evaluation module for evaluating imperfections in the media, the evaluation module comprising an artificial neural network and a fuzzy system;

wherein the evaluation module includes a classifier including first evaluating means for evaluating any imperfections in one or more predefined critical locations on the media and generating a first damage value, second evaluating means for evaluating any imperfections in any non-critical locations on the media and generating a second damage value, and combining means for combining the first and second damage values to generate a single damage index.

12. (new): A system according to claim 11, wherein the first evaluating means comprises a fuzzy system, and the second evaluating means comprises an artificial neural network.

13. (new): A system according to claim 11, wherein the evaluation module includes a plurality of classifiers, and a second level classifier for receiving the single damage index from each classifier and for generating a suitability index therefrom.

14. (new): An evaluation module for evaluating imperfections in media, the evaluation module comprising:

a classifier including (i) a fuzzy system for evaluating any imperfections in one or more predefined critical locations on the media and generating a first damage value, (ii) an artificial neural network for evaluating any imperfections in any non-critical locations on the media and generating a second damage value, and (iii) combining means for combining the first and second damage values to generate a single damage index.

15. (new): A module according to claim 14, further comprising (i) another classifier, and (ii) a second level classifier for receiving the single damage index from each classifier and for generating a suitability index therefrom.